

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149070

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM NICOSIA JUL 27.

QUOTE NICOSIA 1640.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CY, XF

SUBJ: TRIAL OF SEVEN ARAB TERRORISTS

REF: NICOSIA 1558

1. LATE AFTERNOON JULY 27 NICOSIA COURT SENTENCED ALL SEVEN ARAB TERRORISTS TO SEVEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT FOR APRIL 9 ASSAULT ON HOME ISRAELI AMBASSADOR AND EL AL PLANE. COURT EXPLICITLY REJECTED DEFENSE ARGUMENT THAT GENEVA CONVENTION AND INTERNATIONAL LAW SHOULD APPLY TO SEVEN "PRISONERS OF WAR".

2. NOT ALL DEFENDENTS FOUND GUILTY OF ALL 12 CHARGES IN INDICTMENT. APPARENTLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT DEFENSE REQUEST FOR LENIENCY BASED ON YOUTH, ABSENCE SELFISH MOTIVES, AND FACT PARENTS SOME OF DEFENDENTS KILLED IN 1968 WAR, COURT ORDERED ALL OTHER SENTENCES TO RUN CONCURRENTLY--I.E., MAXIMUM OF SEVEN YEARS FOR ALL DEFENDENTS.

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3. COMMENT: GOC HAS THUS BITTEN JUDICIAL BULLET ON THIS
CASE, AFTER LETTING DEFENSE ARGUE AT LENGTH APPLICABILITY
GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND POSTPONING FOR WEEK RENDERING OF
FINAL VERDICT. WE STILL INCLINED BELIEVE GOC WILL SEEK
FIND SOME WAY DEPORT ALL SEVEN AS "UNDESIRABLES". END COMMENT.
MCCLOSKEY UNQUOTE ROGERS

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